

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A protective garment suitable for use by fire fighters, said protective garment comprising:

an inner lining assembly configured to cover a predetermined portion of a wearer's body, the inner lining assembly being positioned so as to be adjacent said wearer's body during use, the inner lining assembly comprising a thermal bearer barrier layer and a moisture bearer barrier layer positioned in between a first lining layer and a second lining layer;

an outer shell covering said inner lining assembly, the outer shell comprising a woven fabric made from a fire resistant material, the woven fabric having a basis weight of at least about 5.5 ounces per square yard; and

a durable water resistant composition incorporated into the woven fabric, the durable water resistant composition being incorporated into the woven fabric such that the outer shell has a water absorption rating of less than about 8% after being laundered five laundry cycles.

29. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the outer shell has a basis weight of about 6 ounces per square yard or less.

30. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the outer shell has a water absorption rating of less than about 6% after five laundry cycles.

31. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the outer shell has a water absorption rating of less than about 4% after five laundry cycles.

32. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the outer shell further has a dynamic water absorption rating of less than about 15% after ten laundry cycles.

33. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the outer shell further has a dynamic water absorption rating of less than about 10% after ten laundry cycles.

34. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the outer shell further has a dynamic water absorption rating of less than about 12% after twenty laundry cycles.

35. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric has a rip stop weave.

36. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric has a twill weave.

37. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric has a plain weave.

38. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric comprises fire resistant aramid fibers.

39. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric comprises fire-resistant polybenzimidazole fibers.

40. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric comprises fire-resistant poly(p-phenylene-2,6-bezobisoxazole) fibers.

41. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein said fabric further comprises fire-resistant melamine fibers.

42. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the thermal barrier layer comprises a felt.

43. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 28, wherein the durable water resistant composition comprises a fluorocarbon polymer.

44. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 43, wherein the durable water resistant composition further comprises a polyisocyanate polymer.

45. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 43, wherein the fluorocarbon polymer comprises a perfluoroalkyl polymer.

46. (Previously Presented) A protective garment suitable for use by fire fighters, said protective garment comprising:

an inner lining configured to cover a predetermined portion of a wearer's body, the inner lining being positioned so as to be adjacent said wearer's body during use;

an outer shell covering said inner lining, the outer shell comprising a woven fabric made from a fire resistant material, the woven fabric having a basis weight of at least about 5.5 ounces per square yard; and

a durable water resistant composition incorporated into the woven fabric, the durable water resistant composition being incorporated into the woven fabric such that the outer shell has a dynamic water absorption rating of no greater than about 7% after being laundered ten laundry cycles.

47. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 46, wherein the outer shell has a basis weight of about 6 ounces per square yard or less.

48. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 46, wherein the outer shell has a dynamic water absorption rating of no greater than about 11% after twenty laundry cycles.

49. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 46, wherein the durable water resistant composition comprises a fluorocarbon polymer.

50. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 49, wherein the durable water resistant composition further comprises a polyisocyanate polymer.

51. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 49, wherein the fluorocarbon polymer comprises a perfluoroalkyl polymer.

52. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 46, wherein the fabric comprises fibers selected from the group consisting of aramid fibers, polybenzimidazole fibers, poly(p-phenylene-2, 6-bezobisoxazole) fibers, melamine fibers, and mixtures thereof.

53. (Previously Presented) A protective garment suitable for use by fire fighters, said protective garment comprising:

an inner lining configured to cover a predetermined portion of a wearer's body, the inner lining being positioned so as to be adjacent said wearer's body during use;

an outer shell covering said inner lining, the outer shell comprising a woven fabric made from a fire resistant material, the woven fabric having a basis weight of at least about 5.5 ounces per square yard; and

a durable water resistant composition incorporated into the woven fabric, the durable water resistant composition being incorporated into the woven fabric such that the outer shell has a water absorption rating of no greater than about 2.5% after being laundered five laundry cycles.

54. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 53, where in the outer shell has a basis weight of about 6 ounces per square yard or less.

55. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 53, wherein the outer shell further has a dynamic water absorption rating of no greater than about 7% after ten laundry cycles.

56. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 53, wherein the durable water resistant composition comprises a fluorocarbon polymer.

57. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 56, wherein the durable water resistant composition further comprises a polyisocyanate polymer.

58. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 56, wherein the fluorocarbon polymer comprises a perfluoroalkyl polymer.

59. (Previously Presented) A protective garment as defined in claim 53, wherein the fabric comprises fibers selected from the group consisting of aramid fibers, polybenzimidazole fibers, poly (p-phenylene-2, 6-bezobisoxazole) fibers, melamine fibers, and mixtures thereof.

60. (New) A protective garment suitable for use by fire fighters, said protective garment comprising:

an inner lining configured to cover a predetermined portion of a wearer's body, the inner lining being positioned so as to be adjacent the wearer's body during use;

an outer shell covering said inner lining, the outer shell comprising a woven fabric made from a fire resistant material, the woven fabric having a basis weight of at least about 5.5 ounces per square yard; and

a durable water resistant composition incorporated into the woven fabric, the durable water resistant composition being incorporated into the woven fabric such that the outer shell has a dynamic water absorption rating of no greater than about 10% after being laundered five laundry cycles and a dynamic water absorption rating of no greater than about 12% after being laundered twenty laundry cycles, the outer shell also having a water absorption rating of less than about 2.5% after being laundered five laundry cycles.

61. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 60, wherein said fabric comprises fire resistant aramid fibers.

62. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 60, wherein said fabric comprises fire-resistant polybenzimidazole fibers.

63. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 60, wherein said fabric comprises fire-resistant poly(p-phenylene-2,6-bezobisoxazole) fibers.

64. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 60, wherein said fabric further comprises fire-resistant melamine fibers.

65. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 60, wherein the durable water resistant composition comprises a fluorocarbon polymer.

66. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 65, wherein the durable water resistant composition further comprises a polyisocyanate polymer.

67. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 66, wherein the fluorocarbon polymer comprises a perfluoroalkyl polymer.

68. (New) A protective garment suitable for use by fire fighters, said protective garment comprising:

an inner lining configured to cover a predetermined portion of a wearer's body, the inner lining being positioned so as to be adjacent the wearer's body during use;

an outer shell covering said inner lining, the outer shell comprising a woven fabric made from a fire resistant material, the woven fabric having a basis weight of at least about 5.5 ounces per square yard; and

a durable water resistant composition incorporated into the woven fabric, the durable water resistant composition being incorporated into the woven fabric such that the outer shell has a spray rating of 100% after being laundered thirty laundry cycles and pressed, has a water repellency of at least about six after being laundered thirty laundry cycles and has an oil repellency of at least about 5 after being laundered thirty laundry cycles.

69. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 68, wherein said fabric comprises fire resistant aramid fibers.

70. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 68, wherein said fabric comprises fire-resistant polybenzimidazole fibers.

71. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 68, wherein said fabric comprises fire-resistant poly(p-phenylene-2,6-bezobisoxazole) fibers.

72. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 68, wherein said fabric further comprises fire-resistant melamine fibers.

73. (New) A protective garment as defined in claim 68, wherein the durable water resistant composition comprises a fluorocarbon polymer.